

Proceeding: In the Matter of 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review -- Amendment of Part of the ☒ Record 1 of 1

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Dear FCC,

I support your actions concerning the following:

1. Reducing the number of Amateur Radio License classes from 6 to 4.
2. Allowing Advanced Class Licensed VE's to administer exams through General.
3. The elimination of the RACES License.

A: On the matter of the Novice band frequencies, I believe they should be opened for use by all classes of Amateurs who have passed at least 5 wpm code exam and should not be limited to 200 watts. In fact all CW bands should be opened to anyone passing this minimal speed exam.

Reason: This would allow Amateurs the opportunity to increase code proficiency while enjoying long distance communications if they so desire. Inforcement of a 200 watt limit is not practically enforceable and by law the Amateur should use the minimal amount of power to maintain the contact anyway.

B: The code speed for the General License should be reduced from 13 to 10 WPM.

Reason: I have been a VE for CAVEC since the program started and a Licensed Amateur Operator since 1963. I currently hold an Amateur Extra License. I have given many code Exams and find there is a break point somewhere between 11-13 wpm. Reducing the speed would allow applicants to achieve quicker entry to the low bands without significantly degrading the hobby.

C: The code exams (all speeds) need to be one minute solid copy or fill in the blank, not multiple choice.

Reason: After giving and grading many CW exams, I have found that an applicant can pass a multiple choice exam, in most cases, with copying less than 50 % of the text. One minute solid copy or fill in the blank is a much better way of knowing if the applicant is proficient at the desired speed.

D: Do away with the question pools that allow applicants to memorize meaning less information without actually having a working knowledge of the material.

Reason: Have applicants actually learn the material and work the formulas.

Robert Varone WA4ETN.